Dear Js, 10/31/72

Having just finished making notes on changes in the Ray habeas corpus petition proper and found error on the first page of the revised factual memorandum to be attached to it - with 46 more usch pages - and knowing that in the mail there is a legal memorandum, I've suddenly too weary to work any more tonight. I could have written a book with less trouble than this long-delayed business is getting down and the end is not yet here.

So, before retreating to Peter Dale Scott, what Lil and I think is very funny from a letter from her second sister. Lil is the oldest of three. Hazel has become a genealogy buff. Her family, of course. Considering that they are older than the country on both sides of the family, that is no simple interest. In saying what Lil hates even to think about (going back to the heyday of the DAR, no doubt), there is the possibility of Indians,too. On her fatherss side, of which I know little, the paternal first ancestor in this country same with Cornwallis. I never knew her father, who died when she was a child. On her mother's, first governor of Maryland, Declaration and Constitution signers, trivialities like that. Once when I first knew her Lil mentioned some of this stuff and then clammed. Except for one wing, Civil-War era.

So, today Lil got a letter from Hazel about a number of things that were of no interest to Lil and a lecture on not being interested enough in "history". Meaning Family. Involuntarily Lil learned more from the parents who raised her than Hazel has from her pursuit. And then a string of things of which Lil should be proud and aware, etc., all but one well know to Lil.

That one: THEY used to own the White House. Yup, and Lafayette Square, too.

LOOK what they did with it!

Milhous soiling the family tree!

That old Davidson (I t ink) should be hanging by the toes at the northwest guard gate!

It brightened Lil's day. She been laughing about it intermittently since.

There is a story I like better. It comes from the most reactionary of her family-association family, a real right-of-Goldwater nut. He used to visit us when he was compiling The Fanily History. Lil's maternal grandmother's side. They are Tablers. Originally Doeblers. From Germany. It was in the early 1600s that Johann either got here and came down to these parts from Pennsylvania, according to John.

He prospered and procreated abundantly.

I guess it was a grandson who had a large estate and many slaves. Not far from here.

The old boy found his favorite son laying one of his slaves. That wouldn't do. He sold the slave. The boy searched her out, bought her back, and married her. How the hell he did it I can't imagine in those days, but he really did. John Henry, who hasn't gotten over it and never will, says it is so.

Father Tabler disowned him and sent him forth, penniless. Except for whatever the kid had stached. So he and his black wife made their way to West Virginia and apparently started a whole damned county.

Probably the most concentrated and most numerous branch of the Descendants of Johann.

Only, not in John Henry's OFFICIAL Family History.

Couldn't have that in, could we? John Henry asked.

Why not, Lil asked right back. True, isn't it.

Well, yes, but nobody would like it and nobody would get or even pay attention to the family history, and it is so important for all of the family to know all about its ancestors.

All? (Lil)

Well, almost all (John Henry)

We'rehad very few visits from him since.

Damn that L'Enfant!

Mine never spoke of ancestors or relatives. I can remember a little, like wonder when a cousin inRussia said she didn't need help any more, later cursing the government not for her lack of need but because her children got opportunities, education and split the village. ns ago, both sides were in Germany and unless someone stopped in Hungary going southeast, one thing of which I'm relatively certain is there is no gypsy blood. Cossack, maybe. ney had and took "rights". ope you think it is funny, almost owning the White House.